

IN THE CLAIMS

1. **(Amended)** An encrypting security device comprising:
a security photograph incorporating a multiplicity of picture elements, the security photograph having an image of an object, the object having a size, the image having a size that is greater than the size of the object;
a scanner adapted to output a digital representation of the security photograph; and
a software program that [is adapted to] convert~~s~~ the digital representation of the security photograph into an encrypted passkey that is stored within the encrypting security device, and further adapted to automatically match the encrypted passkey to the digital representation of the security photograph for allowing access to an associated apparatus.
2. **(Original)** The encrypting security device of claim 1, wherein the associated apparatus is a computer or computer program.
3. **(Previously Presented)** The encrypting security device of claim 1, wherein the associated apparatus is selected from a group including a vehicle, a safe, a cash register, a locking system of a building, and an alarm system of a building.

Claims 4-5 (Cancelled)

6. **(Original)** The encrypting security device of claim 1, wherein the security photograph is an enlargement of the center of a gemstone.

Cancel Claim 7.

8. **(Previously Presented)** A method of securing access to an apparatus, the method comprising:
taking a photograph of an object using a microscope to produce an enlarged photograph of the object;
scanning the enlarged photograph to produce a digital representation of the enlarged

photograph;
executing a software program to convert the digital representation of the enlarged photograph into an encrypted passkey that is stored within the encrypting security device; and
initializing the software program to automatically recognize a subsequent scan of the enlarged photograph and automatically match the recognized scan to the encrypted passkey for allowing access to the apparatus.

Claim 9 (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) The method described in claim 8, wherein the object comprises a gemstone.
11. (Previously Presented) A security system that controls access to a secured element, the security system comprising:
a medium having an image of an object, the medium having an authorized user, the authorized user having a face, the image being free of the face of the authorized user;
a scanner that scans the medium to generate a digital representation of the image; and
a processor connected to the scanner that grants access to the secured element when the digital representation satisfies an access criteria, and denies access to the secured element when the digital representation fails to satisfy the access criteria.
12. (Previously Presented) The security system of claim 11 wherein the processor grants access to the secured element when the digital representation matches a stored value, and denies access to the secured element when the digital representation does not match the stored value.
13. (Previously Presented) The security system of claim 11 wherein the medium is a photograph.
14. (Previously Presented) The security system of claim 11 wherein the image is an enlargement of the object.

15. (Previously Presented) The security system of claim 14 wherein the object is a gemstone.
16. (Previously Presented) A method of controlling access to a secured element, the method comprising the steps of:
 - forming an image of an object on a medium, the medium having an authorized user, the authorized user having a face, the image being free of an image of the face of the authorized user;
 - scanning the medium to generate a digital representation of the image; and
 - granting access to the secured element when the digital representation satisfies an access criteria, and denying access to the secured element when the digital representation fails to satisfy the access criteria.
17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the granting step grants access to the secured element when the digital representation matches a stored value, and denies access to the secured element when the digital representation does not match the stored value.
18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the medium is a photograph.
19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the image is an enlargement of the object.
20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 wherein the object is a gemstone.
21. (Previously Presented) A security system that controls access to a secured element, the security system comprising:
 - a medium having an image of an object, the object having a size, the image having a size that is greater than the size of the object;
 - a scanner that scans the medium to generate a digital representation of the image; and
 - a processor connected to the scanner that converts the digital representation of the image into an encrypted passkey that is stored within the security system and grants access to the secured element when the digital representation matches the encrypted passkey, and denies access to the secured apparatus when the digital representation fails to match the encrypted passkey.

Claim 22 (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the medium is a photograph.
24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the object is a gemstone.